

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Future of U. S. Federal Lands

How Big a Part Should Uncle Sam Play in Managing Such Areas and Their Riches?

SHOULD lands now in possession of the federal government be turned over to the states? Or should the federal government keep lands that it now controls?

These questions are coming to the fore largely as a result of recent legislation affecting areas along the nation's shores. Several weeks ago President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill granting the states—rather than the federal government—title to the oil deposits in underwater areas immediately off our coasts. Previously these offshore areas had been in the hands of the federal government.

The transfer of coastal areas to the states, carried out in accordance with campaign promises made last fall by General Eisenhower, has caused some people to say: "Let's pass similar legislation regarding all territory within states now held by the federal government." Others react to this suggestion by saying: "It would be a bad mistake to regard the tidelands legislation as a precedent for turning over federally owned lands to the states."

Many Americans do not realize that Uncle Sam owns more than 450 million acres of land. In fact, almost 25 per cent of the land area of the nation is held by the federal government. Most of these holdings are in the west. The federal government owns more than half of the land in Nevada, Idaho,

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GOLDEN HORN BRIDGE connects the old and new sections of Istanbul, famous Turkish city along the Bosphorus Strait. Ships pass along the Bosphorus in going between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The waterway is of great historic importance.

Turks Weigh Russian Proposals

Moscow Wants Conference for Changing the Rules Governing Vital Waterways, but Her Attitude Is Much More Conciliatory Than in the Past

"WE Turks want peace with Russia, but we will not abandon our allies or surrender the control of our straits in order to get it." This seems to be Turkey's reaction to the friendly advances recently made by Russia.

The extent to which Moscow has reversed itself in making those advances can be appreciated only if we recall its former attitude. In 1945 the Kremlin selected Turkey as its first target of the cold war. It loosed its original blast at her even before the hot war ended in 1945.

Moscow presented Turkey with two demands. First, she must cede the provinces of Kars and Ardahan to

the Soviet Union. Second, she must grant Russia bases near the Dardanelles. In order to try to frighten Turkey into accepting these demands, Moscow denounced the 1925 Russian-Turkish treaty of friendship and neutrality.

Turkey was not intimidated, however, and she replied with a firm no to both demands. Her answer unleashed a torrent of abuse and warning from the communist press and radio.

Russian propagandists dug far back into history to justify the territorial claims. They traced 16th century boundaries to show that northeastern Turkey as far west as the ancient

Black Sea port of Trebizond was a part of Georgia, which bears the same name as one of our states and which is now a republic of the Soviet Union.

The second demand was by far the more important of the two. For 250 years, Russia had been trying to gain control of the waterways that join the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

As the map on page 2 shows, these waterways comprise two narrow straits and a tiny sea. A ship going from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean must pass through the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. There is no other route from southern Russia to the ocean highways of the world.

The Bosphorus is 18 miles long. At its narrowest point, it is only about half a mile wide. The strait divides not only Turkey but also its largest city, Istanbul, which was once called "Constantinople." Since the strait is a small section of the boundary between Europe and Asia, Istanbul is the only city that rests on two continents.

The Dardanelles is longer than its sister strait. It extends 42 miles from the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean arm of the Mediterranean, and it varies in width from one to five miles.

When Turkey, as an ally of the German Empire, lost World War I, she also lost the control of these straits. For a time, British forces guarded them. Then, on July 24, 1923, the signing of a treaty banished all guns from their shores.

At the Swiss town of Lausanne on Lake Geneva, Britain, France, Greece, and Italy gave Turkey a document which eased the peace terms for her. In return, Turkey agreed that the straits should be demilitarized, with a neutral zone on either side. In peacetime they would be open to all

(Concluded on page 2)

Do You Honestly Seek Out the Truth?

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

question—provided, of course, that he answers it truthfully.

Honest answers to the question would reveal wide differences among individuals. People tend to fall into four classes with respect to their attitude toward truthfulness.

At the bottom of the scale are those who have no regard for it whatever. There are men and women who have no scruples against lying. They frequently lie even when it would be as easy and as profitable to tell the truth.

Somewhat higher in the scale are those who prefer truth to falsehood, other considerations aside. They will tell the truth as a usual thing. But if interests are deeply involved and if they think they will gain advantage by falsifying, they will do so. Some of them

break over frequently, others only occasionally. They may usually be believed, but reliance cannot be placed upon them.

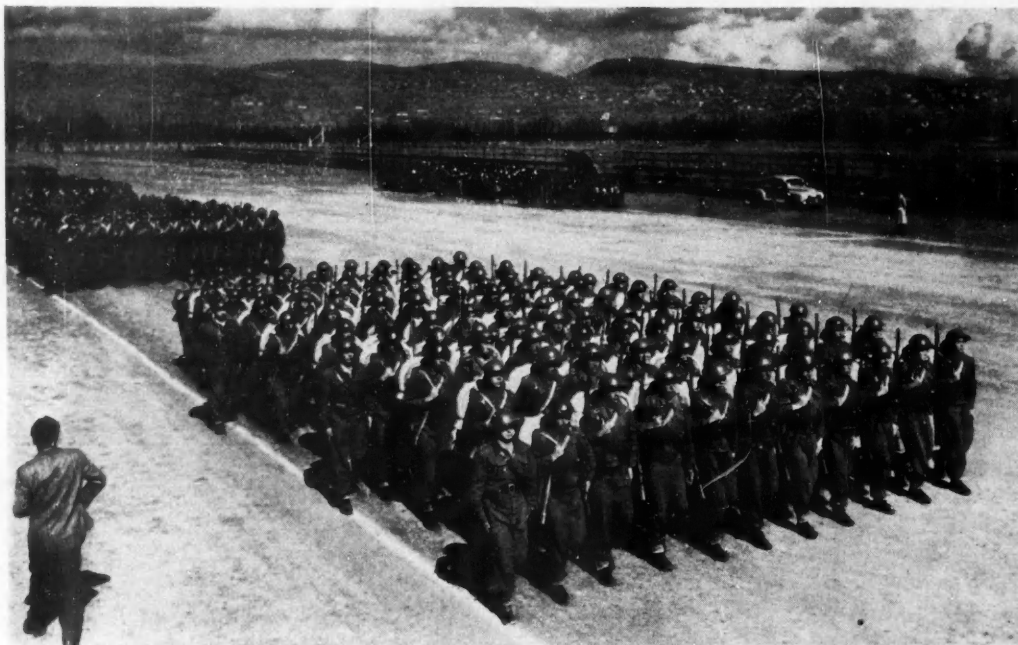
A definitely higher position in the moral scale is occupied by those who always adhere to the truth and who never lie. Perhaps they might give a false impression if some great good were involved, but such problems do not frequently arise in the ordinary affairs of life. Day by day these people can be trusted. If they say a thing happened, you needn't investigate further. You simply assume, as a matter of course, that it did happen. Such persons enjoy the respect of everyone and they are likely to occupy places of responsibility.

It is possible, however, to occupy even higher ground. The people we have just been talking about choose truth rather than falsehood when they recognize the two. But it often happens that falsehood masquerades as truth. It is frequently hard to tell what the truth is.

There are individuals who care so much for truth that they will spend much time and energy trying to discover it. If they hear a rumor about a friend, for example, they do not accept it as truth without investigation.

Furthermore, these persons understand how hard it is to know what is truth with respect to the problems of the public life. They know that if they are careless and accept as true, reports which are not, they will really be acting on falsehood. They determine not merely to be passively honest, accepting truth when it is easy to do so, but positively and actively honest.

Such individuals do not merely accept and follow the truth, but they ferret it out, look for it, find it, and proclaim it. They want truth to prevail and work to that end. They become real students of the great problems which concern them. They read widely, think candidly, discuss fairly, and get into the habit of forming conclusions in the light of evidence. These are out in front in the quest for wisdom.



THE TURKS know of the dangers from communist Russia and are keeping strong armed forces to guard against invasion

Turkey and the Soviet Union

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vessels. In war, too, they would remain open unless Turkey herself were at war. She then had the right to close them to her enemies.

This arrangement did not please the Turks, and later they asked to have it changed. Somewhat reluctantly, in July 1936, the other signatories again met with Turkey on the shore of Lake Geneva, this time at the little Swiss resort of Montreux. With them met Germany, Russia, Greece, Japan, Bulgaria, Romania, and Yugoslavia.

The conference ended with an agreement that Turkey was to become once more the armed "Guardian of the Straits." She promised to let all ships use them in peacetime (with certain restrictions on naval vessels). Nations at war could not send fighting ships through unless such ships were going to the aid of a nation that had been attacked. If Turkey were at war, she could keep out all unfriendly vessels.

Treaty in Effect

The Treaty of Montreux was to run for 20 years, so it is still in effect. It provides that any signatory may request a conference to change its arrangements two years before the treaty expires. This month Moscow made such a request.

Russia has never liked having the key to the straits in the possession of her ancient foe, Turkey. The commerce of the rich and populous Ukraine flows through the straits, together with cargoes from other parts of European Russia. Since the northern Russian seaports are remote from the most heavily populated area and are choked with ice during cold months, the Black Sea ports are doubly valuable. For these reasons, Russia wants to take no chance of having the straits closed by Turkey. This desire is likely to be reflected in whatever changes Russia asks the conference to make.

Hitherto Russia has insisted that no powers but those on the Danube and the Black Sea be permitted to take part in a discussion of the straits problem. Now she agrees that all

signatories to the Treaty of Montreux should have a hand in its revision. As another concession in her friendly advances to Ankara, she has renounced all her territorial claims on Turkey.

It is interesting that this latest chapter in the history of the straits should open just 500 years after the Turks first won control of them. Last month Turkey began her celebration of the earth-shaking event of 1453, the fall of Constantinople.

The city had been founded A.D. 328 when Constantine the Great enlarged the old town of Byzantium. Called Constantinople and sometimes New Rome, it remained the capital of the Roman Empire in the East for over a thousand years. Its successive rulers built and maintained an elaborate system of walls and towers which, with its natural water defenses, made it the strongest city in the world.

In 1453 the Turks, who had spread from Asia Minor throughout much of southeastern Europe, laid siege to the Christian stronghold. Its garrison of only 9,000 men held off the huge Moslem army for 55 days.

The Turks opened fire with the first heavy artillery of which we have record. It consisted of three tremendous guns which, having no carriages, had to be held in position by rocks and timbers. With their muzzles elevated at a high angle, the cannon sent half-ton stone missiles crashing against the city's wall at a range of one mile. Though they were slow to load and fire, they succeeded in breaching the wall. On May 29, the Turks stormed the gap, and the last Byzantine emperor died in a vain effort to repulse them.

Through all the changes brought by war and peace in the following five centuries, Turkey never permanently lost the straits. The explanation lies partially in the fact that western Europe feared and distrusted Russia even before she was communist. Britain, especially, could be depended upon to back up Turkey in keeping the straits from falling to Russia.

The Turks were always willing to

accept help, but they had the good sense not to lean on it. In one war after another, as well as in periods of uneasy peace, they stood up bravely to Russia.

They are doing the same thing now, though today the danger is greater than ever. Twenty-one million Turks face ten times that number of Russians, and the latter have never been so well equipped with implements of wholesale destruction. Moreover, a word from Moscow will hurl the armies of Bulgaria, Romania, and the other Russian satellites against Turkey. She can be struck on two widely separated fronts at the same time, and simultaneously by water and air.

Turkey does not stand alone, though. Never before has she been so well supported by friends. Among them, and leading the list, is the United States. American aid has been a major factor in Turkish preparedness since 1947. In that year Congress, at President Truman's request, decided to furnish economic and military aid to both Turkey and Greece.

We have sent Turkey military equipment and supplies worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The long list of

items includes everything from army mules to jet planes. In addition, we have sponsored schools that by now have trained 46,000 officers and men.

Besides assisting Turkey to strengthen her defenses, we have helped to strengthen her economy. It must be remembered, in this connection, that in spite of the progress she has made since the revolution of 1922, Turkey remains essentially a nation of backward farmers.

Though 80 per cent of the people make their living from the land, only 16 per cent of the country is cultivated. About half of Turkey's area is used for grazing, and much of this needs only irrigation to make it excellent crop land.

Primitive Methods

The typical Turkish farmer scratches the ground with a wooden plow and puts no fertilizer on his fields. Naturally, his crop yield is low. In many cases, he is so far from the nearest road that he makes no effort to raise a surplus for sale. He could not get it to market.

In such an economy as this, there is plenty of room for improvement. By using part of our aid dollars for farm equipment and good roads, the Turks are rapidly getting in a stronger position to raise their living standards.

Already the results are gratifying. Economic aid to Turkey has cost us nearly 300 million dollars. But Turkey's gross national production has increased three times that amount since the aid began coming. Per capita income has risen from \$139 to \$167, and it continues to climb.

Our aid program has emphasized exportable grains and minerals, and the greatest gains have been made in these areas. For example, in 1949 Turkey imported 120,000 tons of grain, while last year she had two million tons to export. Mineral production, too, is rising steadily. Turkey's strategic minerals go to North Atlantic Treaty Organization stockpiles, thus contributing to the defense of Western Europe.

NATO has no more enthusiastic member than Turkey. Her association with the western democracies has given her just the kind of assistance that her courageous, hardworking, self-reliant people need. A stronger, more up-to-date, and more democratic Turkey is evolving, and Russia's dramatic change of attitude is an indication that she has a healthy respect for the small but vigorous neighbor.



TURKEY, with a small area in Europe and the rest in Asia, has a frontier with Russia and also with communist Bulgaria

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The views expressed on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"A Plea for 'Candor' About the Atom," by Gertrude Samuels, *New York Times Magazine*.

With the atomic-weapons race gaining speed, the meaning of man's capacity for destruction is caught in a single statistical comparison: the first atom bomb had a force equal to twenty thousand tons of TNT; the first hydrogen explosion had a force equal to more than five million tons of TNT.

This situation raises questions of how we can survive at this time of history. Is defense possible against them? Can we afford to pay the vast amounts for a defense? What are the dangers of letting the people have the facts?

Questions like these were raised in recent interviews with the man who directed the development of the first atom bomb—Dr. J. Robert Oppen-



ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION headquarters in the nation's capital

heimer. Over the past ten years, Dr. Oppenheimer has lived with the problem of the atom more continuously than any other man in our history.

On the subject of candor, Dr. Oppenheimer has strong ideas. The people should be told in rough terms, without violating security, the extent and nature of atomic weapons today; a rough idea of their numbers and effects; a rough estimate of the enemy's strength. Might this candor create panic? Dr. Oppenheimer does not believe that candor will produce panic any more than ignorance. He says: "I do not think the dangers can be abated by keeping our people and officials in ignorance. I think they can be faced only when we all know the truth."

Oppenheimer and his friends favor defense against the atom as well as strategic (striking) atom force. They say that preparedness plus an effective continental defense will act as a deterrent to the Russian ambitions, and aggression. They say that a reasonable defense against the atom has evolved—but has not been adopted. The proposed system would be nowhere near perfect, but it could offer considerable protection.

While Dr. Oppenheimer is the vanguard of those who believe that as long as the danger of war is with us there are many atomic secrets which must remain secrets, the atomic scientists are opposed to the present phobia of secrecy. They say that it wastes great talents in other lands and dangerously hampers planning the defense of Europe, whose cities are even more vulnerable than ours. Secrecy makes for duplication of work and wasted

energy; we need to inform and to consult because we need all the help and wisdom possible.

The obvious answer to the threat of atomic destruction is peace—and rigid international control of the atom. What can be done to prevent war? Dr. Oppenheimer doesn't have all the answers, but he says this: "There cannot be many more major wars. As of the present, there appears to be no alternative to the arms race. In the long run there must be. The way to view the atom is that we must strive to keep such wars from occurring."

"Go Home, Ivan! Sounds Good," an editorial, *Los Angeles Times*.

The Iron Curtain which rings the Soviet-dominated world runs through the center of Berlin, but it is thinner there. The difference between West Germans and East Germans is an artificial one, maintained by the bayonets of the occupying powers.

The uprising in East Berlin by upward of 50,000 desperate Germans is one of the most significant developments of the postwar period. Apparently the Red army has crushed the rebellion for the time being. But the fact that so many Berliners, mostly of the working classes, were willing to risk death to reject the proletarian paradise imposed on them by the Russians will not be lost on other captive peoples. The cries of "Ivan Go Home" in the streets of Berlin must give the men in the Kremlin a genuine fright.

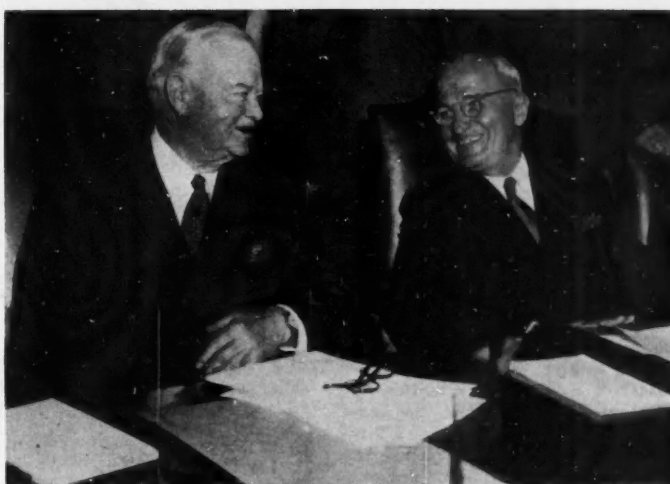
There is reason to believe the essential truth of the unnamed East German rioter who told a Reuters correspondent:

"There are no leaders among us. We have had enough leaders. We are the workers, we are united and we are hungry."

How widespread is this hunger, or how desperate can only be inferred from the reports of refugees. But in Berlin it is no secret that the Russians have systematically looted their zone, and the rest of East Germany, and have ground the populace down to the point of desperation. Whether recent moves to sugar-coat Red rule were an attempt to head off a general rebellion or whether the uprising occurred spontaneously at the first sign of Red weakness is not yet clear. But it is clear that the iron fist was never far away, nor are the new rulers of Russia inhibited from using it.



RECENT ANTI-RED RIOTING in East Germany clearly showed that large numbers of European people do not want to live under the hardships of communist Russian dictatorship



OUR TWO FORMER PRESIDENTS now living, Herbert Hoover (left) and Harry Truman. Should the government make use of the services of such experienced men?

Perhaps the East Berlin street battles mark the turning of a tide against Soviet imperialism. Perhaps they are only a step. It is too early to say what those Germans who stood barehanded before Russian tanks and tore the Red flag to shreds have accomplished, but not too soon to know that they have given free men everywhere a little more courage and confidence in the final outcome.

"Our Ex-Presidents," an editorial, *New York Times*.

Two ex-Presidents of the United States were in the Capitol not long ago. One of them, Herbert Hoover, has been an ex-President so long that he must be used to it. The other, Harry S. Truman, is still, so it seems, enjoying his recovered private citizenship. He affected to be surprised when the Senate gave him the privileges of the floor. He made a good little nonpolitical speech and was warmly greeted on both sides of the aisle as he came and went.

Such things can happen in the United States of America. Both Mr. Truman and Mr. Hoover had a friendly talk with Senator Taft, Mr. Truman for old friendship's sake, Mr. Hoover on business.

Mr. Hoover will be 79 in August, Mr. Truman was 69 in May. Each still has much to contribute to his country. Each has had an experience that

only one man can be having at any one time—occupying the Presidency of the U. S.

How sensible it would be if our living ex-Presidents were allotted official places where their voices and advice could be heard. A seat in the Senate, without a vote, would give the opportunity. With the Senate seat could go an adequate pension. One would like to see Honorary Senator Hoover and Honorary Senator Truman, sitting on opposite sides of the aisle, contributing wisely and philosophically to important debates.

"Is There Communism in the Churches?" by Homer V. Yinger, *The Christian Science Monitor*.

There is so much talk about communism in the churches that we must take the criticism seriously, even though much of it amounts to nothing. We need to analyze the total situation, listen to honest criticism fairly, and know what the best answers are to talk that is not backed by facts.

If there are communists in the churches, let the churches ferret them out. The churches have a far greater stake than government, or any other agency or group, in rooting out communism. For communism is opposed to just about everything churches stand for. The communist does not believe in God; church members base their beliefs on that central faith. The communist believes that the end justifies the means. Churches, on the other hand, teach that the means determines the end.

The churches are not afraid of government investigations because of anything that might be disclosed. But if there are such investigations, what becomes of religious liberty?

We'd better not waste time worrying about charges concerning communists in the churches. Rather, we should throw ourselves into the task of building a world where communism and all false answers to human longing will have no appeal.

The best defense against communism is the offense of America's heart and skill and food aimed at those areas where need is greatest. These are the areas where our way and the communist way will win or lose, not in a battle of voices but in a battle of sincerity guaranteed by helpfulness.

The Story of the Week

Battle over Books

What kind of information should our government provide for people overseas who want to learn more about democracy? That is the question puzzling the State Department which operates 188 libraries around the world as part of our nation's foreign information program.

For some time the libraries have been under fire from several congressmen. Led by Senator Joseph McCarthy of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation, the lawmakers charge that approximately 30,000 of the books are written by communists. Such books, the congressmen say, could hardly give foreign readers a favorable picture of American life and should be dropped from the libraries.

Last February the Department issued orders for checking into the reading matter in its libraries. But the check-ups, according to the officials involved, seemed to create a new problem for every one they tried to solve.

For instance, one order called for the removal of books by "communists, fellow travelers, et cetera." The "et cetera," many felt, was too general. Another order, banning specific books, was issued. Another excluded books whose authors had refused to tell congressional committees if they were or had been communists.

In one city, cautious librarians removed copies of *Witness* by former communist Whittaker Chambers. Also banned were the writings of Thomas Paine because they had been edited by a communist sympathizer.

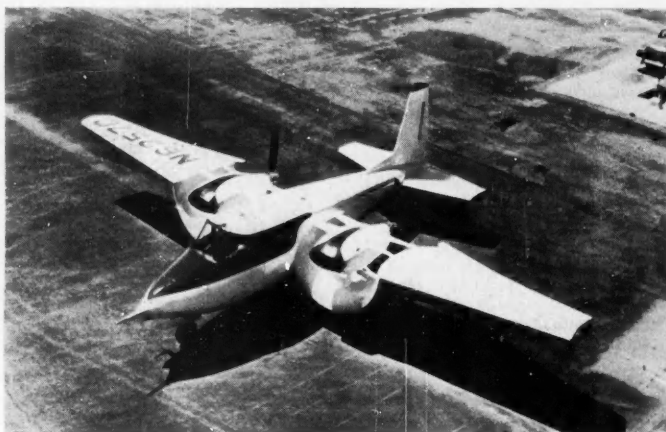
As the book banning continued, educators and librarians here began to protest. The orders, these people argued, smacked of "book-burning" under dictatorships. What's more, it was claimed, certain texts dealing with communism could help in showing overseas readers just what the Soviet system actually is. A purging of such books, according to critics, would tend to keep readers in the dark about the true aims of communism.

Excitement about the problem mounted after President Eisenhower spoke at Dartmouth College. Speaking to the graduates, the President warned against joining the "book burners": "Don't be afraid to go to the library and read books [about communism]. That's how we will defeat communism—by knowing what it is."

Was the President taking a slap at the critics of the State Department's libraries? He refused to say. But he



FRANCE'S NEW PREMIER, Joseph Laniel



NEW PRIVATE PLANE for executives whose business carries them about the country. This five-passenger ship, built by the Custer Channel Wing Corporation of Maryland, is said to be capable of higher speeds than other planes of this type. Also, it can operate at low speeds like those of a helicopter.

agrees that the libraries should not stock books which urge the overthrow of the American government. The whole problem, he said, would receive further study from the State Department.

New Atom Boss

Already busy at his desk at the Atomic Energy Commission is Lewis Strauss, recently named its chairman by President Eisenhower. Strauss, who succeeds Gordon Dean, has big plans for the agency which has developed the nation's vast atomic business.

Strauss favors helping private industries share in more of the commission's developments. So far, of course, the AEC's work has been restricted largely to military use. Now, however, Strauss believes that—under proper safeguards—the government can ease its monopoly on the atomic program. His predecessor, Gordon Dean, held the same belief.

Strauss is an old hand in working with atomic energy. In 1936, as a member of a banking firm, he helped to finance research in atomic experiments. During World War II, while serving in the Navy, Strauss was assigned to work on the government's atomic project. In 1946 President Truman appointed him to the AEC.

Born 57 years ago, Strauss grew up in Richmond, Virginia. For a time he worked for his father's shoe company. During World War I he served with Herbert Hoover's foreign relief staff where he became close friends with Hoover. Shortly afterward he joined a banking firm, remaining a partner there until he was appointed to the AEC. He quit in 1950. Now he's back, this time in a post which is a key one in the new atomic age.

Another Premier

No one is willing to guess how long the new French premier, Joseph Laniel, will be able to head France's government. So rapidly does the French assembly turn against premiers that, since the end of World War II, only one has held his job more than a year. Since the war, premiers have averaged less than five months in office.

But, as we go to press, Laniel is still in power. With luck, he hopes to serve long enough to represent his

country at the coming meeting of the Big Three leaders.

Approval of Laniel came after a 37-day hunt for a successor to René Mayer, the preceding premier. Hardly known outside France, Laniel is known in his country as a man who has made few political enemies—a fact, many believe, which enabled him to get the Assembly's OK to form a cabinet. His program was broad and general enough not to offend the wide range of opinion represented in the Assembly.

The 63-year-old French leader is a veteran in French politics. A linen manufacturer, Laniel became a member of the Assembly in 1932. He was one of the few conservatives who did not work with the Nazis after their conquest of France. Since the war he has held minor posts in previous cabinets.

There is some concern over the fact that Laniel has included several supporters of General Charles de Gaulle in the cabinet. Because de Gaulle's followers oppose a European army treaty, there is a feeling that they may cause trouble. However, Laniel himself is believed to be a supporter of firm ties with the United States and western Europe in building defenses against communism.

Wanted: Rain

"Worst drought ever," sighed a worried Texas farmer. With a wave of his hand he pointed to brown, caked stretches of land which had cracked open, giving the whole area the appearance of a jigsaw puzzle.

Not only Texas, but other southwestern areas—New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado—are suffering from the longest dry spell they have known. In the past three years rainfall has gone as low as a fourth of the season's average. Grass has been scorched brown. Dust has blown off the land and piled up on roads and against buildings.

Farmers in the driest areas expect their 1953 wheat crop to be less than half as large as normal. Cotton growers expect to do only a little better. But probably the worst hit of all by the drought are the cattlemen, with grazing lands bare and with wells and ponds drying out.

In an effort to head off financial

ruin, some ranchers are hurrying much of their stock to market. Prices have fallen as the animals have crowded the stockyards. In Dallas ranchers were recently getting about half what they got a year ago. Housewives are finding bargains in choice cuts at the butcher shops.

While the beef-price picture might look good to consumers, government farm experts are worried. By an early selling of stock—some of which is ordinarily used to breed next year's herds—the farmers may cause a beef shortage in the months ahead.

To help the farmer, government leaders have taken several steps and are considering others. President Eisenhower has set aside an 8-million-dollar relief fund. Secretary of Agriculture Benson has made a trip to Texas for a firsthand report on the situation. He and other leaders are studying plans for making emergency shipments of feed to the cattlemen. Several Senators have backed a bill to allow the government to make low interest loans to the farmer so that he can buy feed.

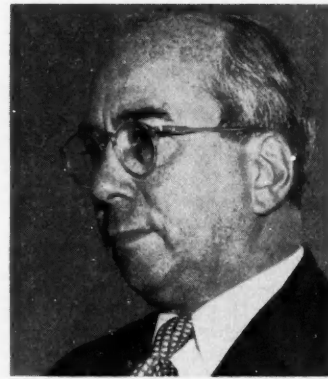
New World's Highway

When Mexico's Trans-Isthmus Highway is completed, Latin American tourists will have a chance to discover more of the New World. Linking the Pacific with the Gulf of Mexico, the road extends 150 miles and is costing about 6 million dollars.

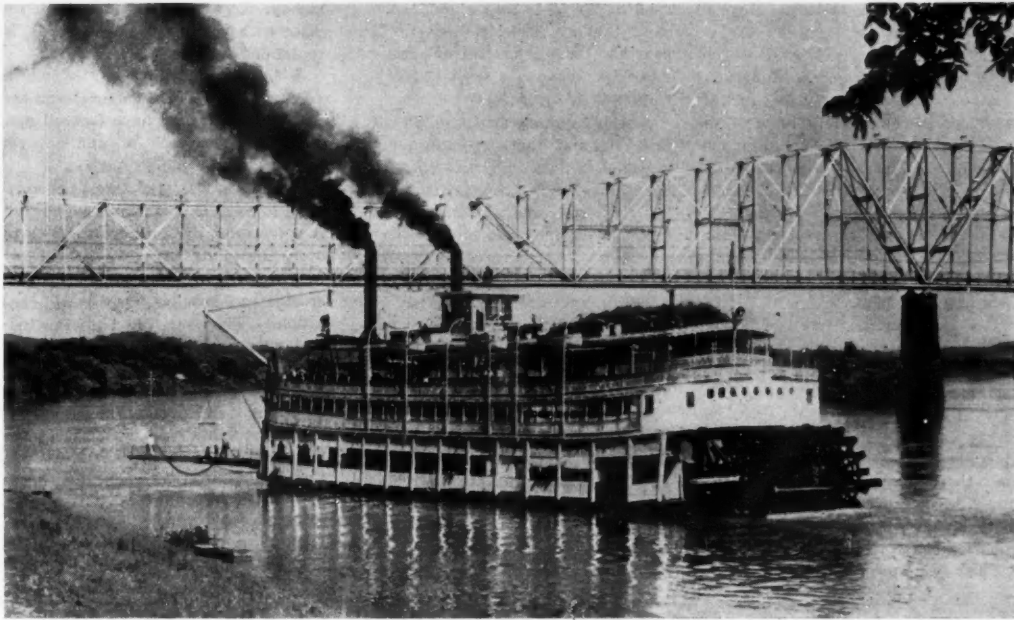
Tehuantepec, a few miles north of the road's southern end, is the city of women. Here, in surroundings famed for their beautiful tropical flowers, women run the city as well as their homes. While they attend to the tasks of making a living, the men lounge peacefully under tropical palms.

Farther on, the highway passes through jungle and woodland inhabited by a variety of animals. The presence of blue butterflies signals your approach to communities where natives live in homes built on stilts. More forests line your way as you drive on to the Gulf. Orchids and royally-plumed tropical birds add to the breath-taking beauty. Along the way you also get glimpses of the cacao trees whose seeds provide chocolate, the major crop in this area.

Mexicans hope that the highway will stimulate the growth of towns formerly cut off from most means of communication. The road seems certain to make shipping between the Pacific and the Gulf easier. With a railroad and pipeline running beside



LEWIS STRAUSS, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission



LAST OF HER KIND? The 50-year-old *Avalon* was one of many famous excursion boats that used to carry holiday crowds along the Mississippi and the Ohio Rivers. Now her owners say the *Avalon* is the only one left.

it, the new highway should be important to western nations in case of trouble.

Foreign Ministers Meet

As we reported last week, the American-British-French parley at Bermuda, formerly scheduled for early July, was put off for at least a month. The illness of Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill was given as the reason for this delay.

A few days after we went to press, the "Big Three" nations decided to hold a preliminary meeting in advance of the Bermuda conference. As these lines were written, the foreign affairs representatives of the United States, Britain, and France were scheduled to begin talks in Washington, D. C. during this past week end.

The three countries decided on the special get-together to pave the way for the forthcoming Bermuda talks. Moreover, the Allied nations are believed to have called the preliminary meeting to discuss policies that the western nations might follow regarding Germany, in the wake of last month's East German revolt against the communist bosses.

On the other side of the Iron Curtain, meanwhile, communist officials are also believed to be holding special meetings on the German question and on other matters. A short time ago, Moscow ordered Red leaders of East Germany and those of some other European countries to return home for talks in the Soviet capital. Thus far, we have no news of the proceedings in Moscow.

Travel in Russia

For a number of years now, it has been very difficult for foreign diplomats, newsmen, and other visitors in Russia to travel from place to place inside that country. Strict travel regulations have kept much of the vast Soviet Union sealed off to outsiders.

That's why western leaders are taking a close look at Russia's latest announcement that the Soviets are easing travel restrictions on foreigners.

Moscow recently declared that all but a few sections of Russia will now be open to outside visitors.

Actually, a number of restrictions will continue to hamstring the movement of foreigners in Russia. Outsiders, including diplomats, are followed by Red secret police wherever they go. Moreover, travel rules make it all but impossible for visitors to ride on many of the Soviet Union's trains and busses because these vehicles travel through "restricted" areas. Finally, only a handful of outsiders are actually admitted into the Soviet Union to begin with.

China's Millions

How many people actually live within China's vast areas? According to some estimates, that land has between 350 and 500 million inhabitants. The exact number of people living in the huge Asiatic country, though, is not known because no complete population count has been made since the 1740's.

Soon there may be some up-to-date population figures for China. That land's communist government is now sending its representatives throughout the country to count its people.

The Red Chinese officials are counting their people for taxation purposes. The communist regime wants to make certain that no one will escape from the tax collector. Another reason for the population census, according to Chinese leaders, is to seek out and register all eligible voters in preparation for communist elections scheduled for next fall.

In our country, some observers wonder whether China's census figures—once they are obtained—will be made public. Also asked is this question: If the Chinese communist regime does publish some population figures, how reliable will they be?

Crop Controls

Despite drought and other unfavorable weather conditions in some areas, farm authorities expect this year's U. S. wheat crop to total well over a

billion bushels. This will give us a huge supply of grain, since we already hold more than half a billion bushels from previous crops.

Under present federal law, the Secretary of Agriculture must seek a reduction in wheat output whenever the nation gets so large a surplus as is now being piled up. Secretary Ezra Benson has therefore announced plans for restricting the amount of wheat that farmers will be allowed to plant for next year's crop. If two thirds of the wheat farmers approve the program—at a special balloting soon to be held—it will go into effect. Then each wheat farmer will be told how many acres of the grain he may raise, and those who plant more than the specified amount will be penalized.

If the farmers vote to accept crop restrictions, the federal government will guarantee them a comparatively high price for their wheat. If they turn down the quota plan, Uncle Sam will guarantee wheat prices at a considerably lower level.

Many people oppose the idea of putting federal controls on wheat and other farm crops. They think it would be better for Uncle Sam to keep his hands off. Others reply that the gov-

ernment must occasionally step in to hold our crop surpluses at manageable levels, so that the oversupply will not drive crop prices down too far.

Foreign Aid

As we go to press, the nation's foreign aid program seems assured of at least one more year of existence. Both the Senate and the House have passed bills providing for military and economic assistance to our overseas allies, though there were some differences between the separate aid measures as originally passed by the two chambers.

The Senate, for instance, asked for a total of more than \$5.3 billion in foreign aid, while the House sought slightly less than \$5 billion in assistance funds. These figures fall below the 5½ billion in aid asked for by President Eisenhower.

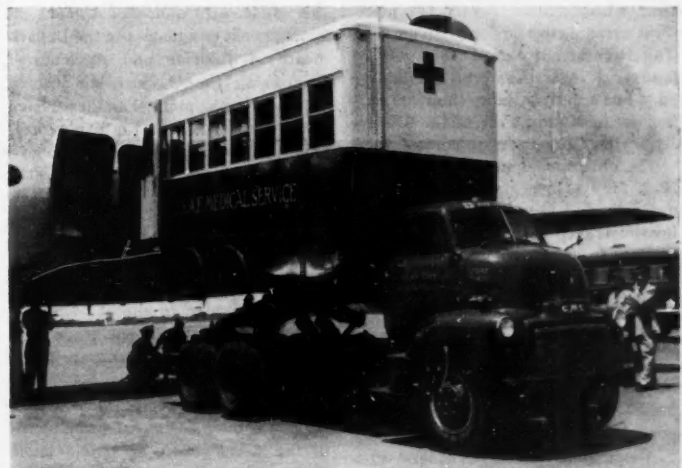
As of last week, spokesmen for the two legislative chambers were striving to iron out differences in their respective aid bills. Final action may have been taken by the time this paper reaches its readers.

Troubled Korea

As of last week, the Korean truce talks continued to be stalemated. There was still hope, however, that a compromise agreement could be found to clear the way for an end to the Far Eastern struggle.

As we go to press, the differences between the United Nations and South Korea's President Syngman Rhee are still the big stumbling blocks to a peace agreement. Rhee has asked for a defense pact with the United States before a truce is made with the enemy. He has also insisted that the UN should agree to resume the war against the communists if no progress is made toward the unification of North and South Korea within 90 days after an armistice is signed. The South Korean President threatened to continue the fight against the Reds, without UN help if necessary, if his demands were not met.

In answer to Rhee's demands, the United States has declared that it is willing to talk over the matter of an American-South Korean security pact after a Korean truce is made. We and our allies have also declared that we will make every effort to unite divided Korea by peaceful means when the war in that country ends.



WITH THIS LIFT AMBULANCE, patients of the armed forces may now be hoisted comfortably to hospital planes and slipped quickly aboard on stretchers

Federal Lands

(Concluded from page 1)

Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, and Oregon.

Much of the territory consists of areas once open for settlement but never used. The government has bought other sections for various reasons—for use as national parks, for Army camps and proving grounds, for atomic testing areas, and for other purposes.

At one time the land owned by the federal government amounted to about two thirds of the entire U. S. territory. The first of these holdings was obtained when 7 of the original 13 states ceded to the federal government land which they claimed beyond the Allegheny Mountains. Then came the purchase of Louisiana from France. Later there followed the purchase of Florida, the annexation of Texas, the acquisition of Oregon and

the War of 1812, and the Mexican War.

In the latter years of the 19th century, land policy began to undergo a change. The feeling grew that it would be in the best interests of the nation to conserve the remaining federal lands. The first national parks and forests were set aside. The system of leasing lands to private companies for oil and mineral extraction was started with the ownership of the land remaining in the hands of the federal government.

The conservation movement made great headway during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt felt that forests must be preserved not only to assure future lumber for the nation but to soak up the rains and thus help prevent floods. He saw, too, that there was much arid land that might become productive if irrigated. Various laws were passed to help America conserve her resources.

Since the time of Theodore Roose-

used to turn generators and assure a steady supply of electric power. Last year the federal government received 83 million dollars in revenue from its water-power projects.

In the administrations of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, the federal government embarked on a number of large-scale projects for developing western areas. It increased the tempo of river development and built such gigantic structures as the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River.

The increasingly active role of the federal government in these large-scale development programs has helped to bring on the present controversy over the future of the public lands. Some people feel that the federal government is playing too big a part in these programs of land development. The states and private individuals, they contend, could do a more efficient job. Moreover, federal development of these lands, it is charged, is a big step down the road toward socialism.

not cut more timber than we can replace with young, growing trees, it is contended.

Minerals. The discovery of oil in new areas since World War II and the search for uranium have focused new attention on possible oil and mineral deposits in the public lands.

Those who want the federal government to hang onto its lands argue that if private mining interests took them over, the lands might be ruined for future use, and might be laid open to erosion and possible "dust-bowl" conditions. They say, too, that the federal government badly needs oil and minerals that may exist on its lands.

Those who feel that the lands should go to the states argue that federal restrictions today hinder the search for minerals in these areas. Moreover, they point out that states are hard-pressed for revenues and deserve the proceeds from mineral wealth just as coastal states deserved—and were awarded—the tidelands oil.

Grazing lands. About 160 million acres of federal land are now leased for grazing. Most of it is managed by the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior.

Many cattlemen feel that they should be allowed to graze more cattle on these lands than is now the case. They say, too, that the federal government has often taken arbitrary action against them.

Those favoring the present controls say that if grazing restrictions are lifted, many cattlemen will overgraze the range, causing erosion and ruining the land. This will also cause dust-bowl conditions and intensify floods, they say.

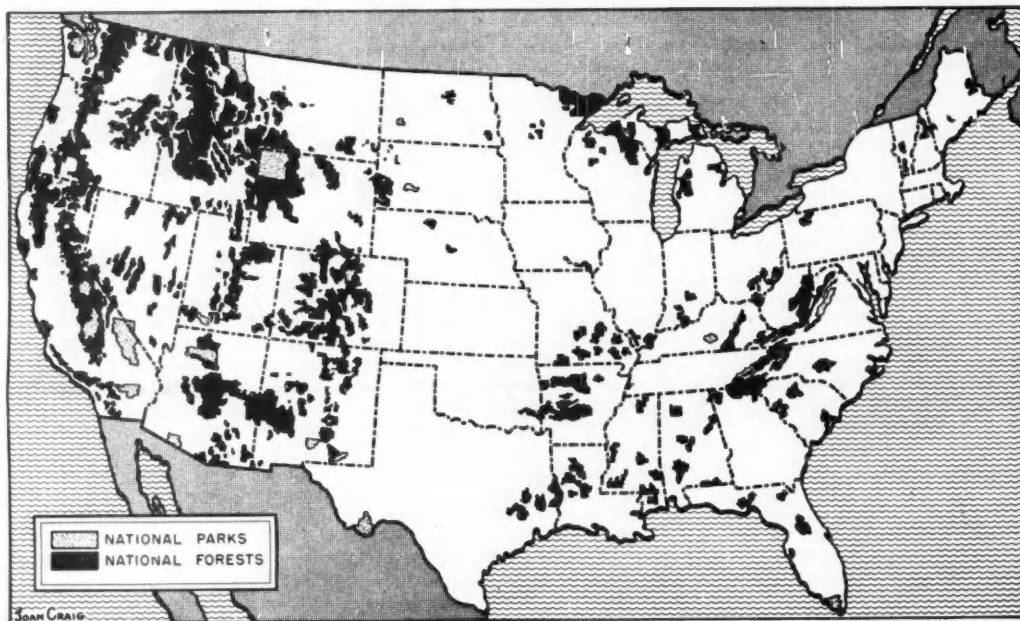
Rivers and Dams

Water power. In the past 20 years many dams have been built by the federal government. Most of these are multiple-purpose dams—that is, they provide for irrigation, flood control, and water power.

Those who support the federal government's program in this field say that many reclaimed areas in the west would today be wasteland if the federal government had not stepped in. Private companies, they charge, have had neither the inclination nor the resources to build dams in many of these areas. Moreover, where private companies have gone ahead, their electricity rates are often much higher than are the rates of government power companies.

Others, including many private power groups, maintain that it is not fair to have the government step in and compete with private companies. What this means, they say, is that all U. S. taxpayers are contributing toward these big projects, and mainly for this reason government electricity rates are sometimes low. They say that private companies can do a more efficient job in many cases, and will not put the cost of construction projects on the American people in the form of higher taxes.

These are some of the main areas of controversy. More Democrats than Republicans in Congress favor strict federal control of the public lands. More Republicans than Democrats favor giving the states and private individuals some of the control now held by the federal government. There are, however, differences of opinion in each party, and the action to be taken—if any—remains uncertain.



OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS. The map does not show all of them, but it does give some idea of the vastness of the lands under control of the federal government.

two big pieces of land from Mexico.

For the first hundred years or so after the American Revolution, the government's main policy toward land was to get it into the hands of settlers without much regard for price. Vast areas were sold for \$1.25 an acre. The Homestead Act of 1862 offered land free to settlers who would live on it and work it. More than 200 million acres of land west of the Mississippi went to settlers under this act.

The government also made gifts of land for various purposes. Schools and colleges were among the principal beneficiaries. States received land to be used in maintaining public schools. Many state universities and agricultural colleges were established as the result of land grants from the federal government. In all, about 181 million acres of land—approximately four times the area of the state of New York—were given up by the federal government to promote education.

About 130 million acres of land were given to railways and canal companies to encourage them to open up remote areas. The Northern Pacific Railroad alone received about 39 million acres. Additional tracts were set aside for veterans of the American Revolution,

vult, the federal government has generally followed a policy of conserving the public lands and their timber, mineral, and water resources. This policy does not imply, though, that the lands are unused. Under the management of agencies in the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, they bring the U. S. much income.

For example, more than 20 per cent of the timber cut in the west comes from lands owned by the federal government, and almost half of the cattle in the west graze on federally supervised lands. Private lumbermen and cattlemen pay the government for the right to cut timber and graze cattle in these areas. In 1952 receipts from timber amounted to almost 64 million dollars for the government, while grazing rentals totaled more than 5 million dollars.

During recent years the construction of dams has figured prominently in the development of public lands. Many multiple-purpose dams have been built. Waters are stored in rainy seasons, helping to prevent floods. Then, when dry spells occur, some of these waters are used to irrigate nearby farm areas. The same waters are

Others feel that the federal government should continue to play a leading role in managing the public regions and developing their resources. They say that it has been shown time and again that private individuals and states use up natural resources for quick profits and leave the land unfit for further use. Only the federal government, it is held, will develop these lands in the best interests of all.

Let us look at some of the resources over which controversy rages.

Timberlands. About 160 million acres of federal land are now set aside as national forests. They are supervised by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

Those who want to lift, or modify, the controls of the federal government over the national forests argue that government supervisors are too strict in limiting the cutting of timber. They say that the Forest Service could permit more lumbering without harming the timberland.

Those who favor the present course in managing the national forests say that private lumbermen would strip these forests in short order, if they could get control of them. We must

Science News

AS part of an experimental weather survey, designed to help anticipate the build-up of costly electrical storms, cloud spotters will be added to the ranks of assorted sky watchers in this country.

Twenty-five mountain fire watchers in Idaho and Montana will serve as part-time cloud and weather observers to furnish data that may help reduce lightning fires. The spotters will report on cloud-breeding sites in an effort to trace starting points of damaging storms.

Since 75 per cent of all fires in this northwest area are caused by lightning, it is hoped that the information gathered from this area will help in showing what produces storm clouds, snow and rain. It should also determine in part where cloud seeding will prevent lightning storms from developing, since proper seeding can limit cloud size and prevent storms.

Crudely chipped stone implements that may be the oldest known works of man were unearthed recently in the small town of Ain Hanach in Algeria. The stone tools were found near deposits containing Ice Age specimens such as the remains of archaic elephants and other vertebrates typical of that period, indicating that the tools were of the same period.

Heretofore, it had not been thought that there existed any form of humanity at the beginning of the Ice Age, some 500,000 years ago. A French scientist, who made the discovery while digging for relics in the Ain Hanach area, says that no human remains were found in the area. But he states that the men who made the stone implements lived at least as long ago as the oldest human types so far identified.

Bees will not have to be so busy any more with the development of a plastic honeycomb. The bees can now spend all their time making honey without bothering to make wax. The inventor of the plastic honeycomb says it is the first time on record that bees have seen fit to use artificial methods.



PAY AND CHOOSE your TV program. A New York manufacturer has developed an electric unit for attachment to regular TV sets. You drop a quarter, or maybe more, into the slot, and select a movie, or whatever show you want. The TV station broadcasts your choice, "scrambled" so that other sets can't pick it up. The decoder "unscrambles" the program onto your television screen.



VICE PRESIDENT NIXON (center) often greets distinguished foreign visitors. Here he is shown with former French Premier Rene Mayer (left) and U. S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Mayer was Premier at the time.

The Vice President

Richard Nixon Finds Plenty of Ways to Keep Busy in a Job that Has Bored Some of Its Earlier Holders

MANY years ago, a Vice President of the United States humorously told about a man who had two sons. "One," he said, "ran away to sea. The other became Vice President. Neither was ever heard from again."

During recent years, Vice Presidents have played a fairly active role in our government and have been rather frequently mentioned in the news. There was a time, though, when they were so inconspicuous that the above joke contained far too much truth.

Even in modern times, this nation pays comparatively little attention to the man who might at any moment be called to shoulder the responsibilities of America's highest office.

Our federal Constitution doesn't give the Vice President much work. His primary job, of course, is to stand ready to take over the Presidency in case the Chief Executive dies, resigns, is removed from office, or becomes unable to serve. In addition, he presides over the Senate. Officially he does not have much power over the work of that group, though he can cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. Some Vice Presidents have, for one reason or another, done little except to carry out these limited functions and duties that are prescribed in the Constitution.

Vice President Richard Nixon, however, is not satisfied with a comparatively inactive role. He doesn't want to spend his term of office on the sidelines. So, with the approval of President Eisenhower, he is taking an increasingly important part in the work of the government. One of his main activities is to try—by keeping in close touch with Eisenhower and with key congressional leaders—to prevent friction between Congress and the President. Some people think Nixon is to a great extent responsible for the surprisingly peaceful relations that have existed between the White House and the Capitol this year.

Also, Mr. Nixon attends Cabinet meetings and other conferences of top administration officials, and he is present when congressional leaders gather at the White House to talk with President Eisenhower. On April 17, when Eisenhower was away from Washington, Nixon became the first Vice Pres-

ident ever to preside at a Cabinet meeting.

Various other Vice Presidents have taken on more activities than those few duties which are set forth in the Constitution. Vice President Calvin Coolidge attended Cabinet meetings during the administration of Warren G. Harding, thereby gaining knowledge and experience that helped him when he had to take over the Chief Executive's office. Presidents Roosevelt and Truman kept in close touch with their Vice Presidents and asked them to attend Cabinet sessions. Henry Wallace, Vice President during four years of Franklin Roosevelt's administration, was given many special assignments by the Chief Executive.

Harry Truman, the third man to serve as Vice President with Franklin Roosevelt, entered the White House after spending less than three months in the Vice Presidential post. So he didn't get much time to learn about the details of the Presidency.

Twentieth Century Presidents are not the only ones who have made efforts to give their Vice Presidents an important role. George Washington, for instance, often sought help and advice from Vice President John Adams. Nevertheless, Adams was dissatisfied with his job. In a letter to his wife he commented: "My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived."

The vigorous Theodore Roosevelt became Vice President in 1901, fearing that the job would be too dull for him. Within less than a year, though, an assassin's bullet had killed President McKinley and sent Roosevelt to the White House.

Despite the complaints that Vice Presidents have sometimes made concerning their position, everyone knows that the job is a serious and important one. During our nation's history, Presidential deaths have brought seven Vice Presidents into the Chief Executive's chair. Those who have entered the White House to fill unexpired Presidential terms are John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, Chester Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, and Harry Truman.

Study Guide

Federal Lands

1. What questions have been raised about public lands largely as a result of the recent passage of tidelands oil legislation?
2. How much land within continental United States does the federal government hold? Where is most of it?
3. How did the federal government acquire the areas it holds?
4. In what ways did the federal government get rid of much of the territory it once held?
5. What policies has the government generally followed with respect to its land holdings over the past 50 years?
6. How does the government receive income from some of the public lands?
7. Give the pros and cons on federal control of lands concerning each of the following: timber, minerals, grazing land, water power.

Discussion

1. Do you think that the federal government should turn the lands it owns over to the states? Why or why not?
2. Do you or do you not favor the further construction of multiple-purpose dams by the federal government? Explain your stand.

Turkey's Straits

1. In 1945 the Soviet Union made two demands on Turkey. What were they, and what was the Turkish reply?
2. Why are the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles important to Russia?
3. What is the name of the treaty under which the straits are now administered by Turkey?
4. What request did Russia make recently as a step toward getting the treaty provisions changed?
5. In what respects does Russia's present attitude toward Turkey differ from the attitude she adopted in 1945?
6. How is the United States helping the Turks to prepare for the defense of their republic?
7. What have we done to strengthen the Turkish economy?

Discussion

1. Do you feel that Turkey should continue indefinitely to be the "Guardian of the Straits," or do you think that the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles should be placed under international control? Give your reasons.
2. Has the American program of aid to Turkey been justified by the results obtained? State why you think it has or has not been worth what it has cost.

Miscellaneous

1. What are some of the problems raised by State Department orders to remove books written by communists from our overseas libraries?
2. In what way has Lewis Strauss prepared himself for his duties as Atomic Energy Commission chief?
3. Who is Joseph Daniel? Why is his job insecure?
4. How is Uncle Sam helping drought-stricken farmers in Texas and nearby states?
5. Why are foreign affairs representatives of the "Big Three" countries meeting in our nation's capital?
6. What are some of the extra governmental activities that Vice President Richard Nixon is undertaking?

References

- "All Public Lands Going to States?" *U. S. News & World Report*, March 27, 1953.
 "Turkey," *Atlantic Report on the World Today*, *The Atlantic*, June 1953.

Pronunciations

- Ardahan—är' dā-hān'
 Ankara—äng' kă-rā
 Bosphorus—bōs' pō-rūs
 Byzantine—bī-zān'tīn
 Dardanelles—dār-d'n-ēlz'
 Istanbul—is'tam-bōōl'
 Kars—kărs

Across the United States

A Wonderland for Vacationers

This is the fifth in a series of articles about the regions of the United States. Because of limited space, we are unable to include all the important cities and major attractions in each state. The states are grouped according to the plan used by the United States government. This week we are concerned with the Mountain states.

FEW places in the world have so much to offer vacationers as the Mountain states—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Nature has given them some of her strangest and most beautiful creations—steaming geysers, hot springs, petrified forests, mile-deep canyons, brightly colored earth, and weirdly shaped rocks. Running through the region from north to south are the lofty Rocky Mountains.

While the Mountain states cover over 860,000 square miles, they have only about 5½ million people. (The United Kingdom, smaller than Wyoming in area, must support at least 50 million!) Nevada, the most thinly settled state in the Union, has fewer inhabitants than does the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Uncle Sam owns about two-fifths of the land in Colorado, two-thirds in Idaho, seven-tenths in Utah, one-third in Montana, two-fifths in New Mexico, three-fourths in Arizona, one-half in Wyoming, and nine-tenths in Nevada. Some of these federal lands are used for grazing. Part is set aside in Indian reservations. Other large areas serve as vacation lands for all Americans. In these states may be found some of our most beautiful national parks and forests.

Even though the population of the Rocky Mountain states is small, it has made a big growth during the last 10 years. Both Arizona and Nevada have had increases of over 40 per cent, while New Mexico and Utah have grown by more than 24 per cent.

A booming tourist trade has brought new residents to the Mountain states to operate hotels, restaurants, filling stations, and resorts. But even more important as a cause of population growth is the swift development of industries during recent years. Such activities as meat packing and beet-sugar refining are expanding. Iron and steel works, aluminum plants, and copper refineries have also been established. Industries which make fertilizers and chemicals have grown rapidly, too.

The Mountain states contain some of the richest mining areas in the world. They produce copper, coal, uranium, oil, natural gas, iron, gold, silver, lead, zinc, potash, and other minerals. Mining interests have long played an important role in the business life of the west.

The region produces much livestock and a great variety of farm crops, including grain, fruit, and vegetables. Its chief handicap, as far as agriculture is concerned, is scarcity of water. There are vast stretches of barren desert, and other areas where the rainfall supports little except sagebrush and bunch grass. Irrigation is the means by which the Mountain states have been able to raise bountiful field, orchard, and garden crops. On some

of the land which is too dry for crops, herds of cattle, sheep, and goats are raised.

Altogether, these states are more important as suppliers of raw materials than as centers of manufacturing. The main industries produce flour, beet sugar, copper, iron, meat, and chemicals.

Because the Mountain states are noted for their scenic beauty, we will devote the remainder of this article to telling about some of the tourist attractions in each.

Idaho. Capital: Boise. Population: 608,000; ranks 42nd. Area: 83,557



square miles; ranks 12th. Entered the Union: 1890.

In south central Idaho is one of the state's most famous vacation lands—Craters of the Moon National Monument. It is an 80-square-mile region of strangely shaped rocks, craters, natural bridges, tunnels, caves, and cinder beds. Thousands of years ago the earth cracked open and molten rock and cinders poured over the land, forming this unusual region.

Along the border between Idaho and Oregon is Hell's Canyon of the Snake River—one of America's deepest gorges. It is about 40 miles long and averages more than a mile deep.

Everyone who enjoys skiing has heard of Sun Valley, in the central part of the state. Glistening snow and beautiful mountains make this an ideal setting for winter sports.

Montana. Capital: Helena. Population: 591,000; ranks 44th. Area: 147,138 square miles; ranks 3rd. Entered the Union: 1889.

Glacier National Park is one of Montana's chief attractions. The

park is named for the 60 glaciers which are found among its mountains. The glaciers are remnants of the sheets of ice which covered the whole region in ancient times.

Melting snow and ice from the glaciers help to form some 250 lakes. The lakes and streams of the park are filled with trout, and animals roam the forests and mountain meadows.

Wyoming. Capital: Cheyenne. Population: 308,000; ranks 48th. Area: 97,914 square miles; ranks 8th. Entered the Union: 1890.

In the northwest corner of Wyoming is Yellowstone National Park—

zona border, is Hoover Dam, which was once known as Boulder Dam. It furnishes water and electric power to a large area of the southwestern United States. Lake Mead, formed by the dam, provides a fine recreation area.

Utah. Capital: Salt Lake City. Population: 737,000; ranks 39th. Area: 84,916 square miles; ranks 10th. Entered the Union: 1896.

In northwestern Utah is Great Salt Lake. This big lake—75 miles long and 50 miles wide—is six times as salty as the ocean. The reason is that the water never drains away. There is no outlet, and as the water evaporates, it leaves behind the salt and other minerals it was carrying. Over the centuries, the water has become more and more salty until today it is one-fourth salt!

South of Great Salt Lake is Zion National Park. Zion Canyon is one of the chief attractions of the park. It is 15 miles long, from 20 feet to half a mile across, and from 2,000 to 3,000 feet deep. The walls are composed of red and white stone. Further east is Bryce Canyon National Park where wind and rain have carved shapes out of stone.

Colorado. Capital: Denver. Population: 1,431,000; ranks 33rd. Area: 104,247 square miles; ranks 7th. Entered the Union: 1876.

Colorado is the highest state in the Union. The land averages 6,800 feet above sea level. Of the 55 tallest mountains in the United States, 45 are in Colorado. More than 250,000 acres of land have been set aside as Rocky Mountain National Park.

Ruins of cliff dwellers' villages are found in Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado. Indians built these ancient apartment houses on the steep sides of the cliffs centuries ago.

Arizona. Capital: Phoenix. Population: 859,000; ranks 36th. Area: 113,909 square miles; ranks 5th. Entered the Union: 1912.

In Arizona is one of the world's greatest natural wonders—the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. It is 217 miles long. Its mile-high cliffs seem to change color almost constantly. Another natural wonder of Arizona is Meteor Crater. Scientists say that a giant meteor struck the earth at this spot and left a hole almost a mile wide and several hundred feet deep.

New Mexico. Capital: Santa Fe. Population: 725,000; ranks 40th. Area: 121,666 square miles; ranks 4th. Entered the Union: 1912.

New Mexico is the only state in which there are two official languages—English and Spanish. Both are used in the state legislature, in the courts, and elsewhere.

Throughout New Mexico there are ruins of ancient Indian villages. Centuries ago, the Indians built great dwellings out of stone. Some were six stories tall—our first apartment houses.

In the southeastern part of the state are the Carlsbad Caverns, called the largest series of caves in the world. Farther west is White Sands National Monument, where drifting sand dunes are spread over 176,000 acres.

the oldest and largest of our parks. It spreads over two million acres in Wyoming and extends into Idaho and Montana.

Best known for its geysers and hot springs, Yellowstone is one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Elk, antelope, buffalo, moose, deer, bears, and more than 200 kinds of birds live in the park. Spectacular canyons and waterfalls are also numbered among its attractions.

Just a few miles south of Yellowstone lie some of the most rugged mountains in the United States—the Grand Tetons.

Nevada. Capital: Carson City. Population: 180,000; ranks 49th (because District of Columbia is counted among states). Area: 110,540 square miles; ranks 6th. Entered the Union: 1864.

Nevada shares two of its famous landmarks with other states. One is Lake Tahoe on the California border. The deep blue craters and surrounding mountains draw thousands of tourists each year.

In southeastern Nevada, on the Ari-